corded by him from Massachusetts and California; Barber has found it in New Jersey (Lakehurst); and I took it in Amherst, Mass., one long-winged and one short-, under leaves in May.

Very little indeed is known of these insects with us, so that it may not be amiss to note here the habits of the more collected and better known European species.

*Scolopostethus pictus*, according to Puton, is found in ants' nests; Fieber states it is found under fallen leaves, under plants on grassy mounds on dikes; Guérin and Péneau find it on lake shores in July, on willow; Saunders took it in the English Fens.

*S. affinis* Schilling, Saunders reports as common in rubbish and as taken by sweeping nettles in summer; Douglas and Scott say it is very common, especially under heath, nearly all the year through; Guérin and Péneau find it common all year, in summer in the fields, on divers plants, in winter under moss; Fieber records it on dry stony mounds, under *Erica* (heath).

These are typical of the habit of the other species; all seem to be found under leaves or near damp places or on dry fields, some, indeed, in all three habitats.

## A New Genus and Species of Buprestidae (Col.).

By H. C. Fall, Pasadena, California.

**AMPHEREMUS.** New genus.

Body narrow, subcylindric, mentum very strongly transverse, arcuate anteriorly; labrum short, bilobed; epistoma broadly sinuate. Antennal cavities rather large, separated by slightly more than one-third the total width between the eyes, upper margins oblique and slightly reflexed. Eyes moderate, their inner margins nearly parallel. Terminal joint of maxillary palpi widest at base, feebly conical, a little compressed, apex truncate, preceding joints obconic, as wide as long. Antennae short, rather thick, serriform from the fourth joint, the serriform joints densely finely punctate and opaque inferiorly and apparently with very small intro-terminal sensory fossae.

Prothorax cylindrical, not margined at sides except for a very short distance at the base angles; base with a short, broad, sinuate, feebly reflexed lobe. Scutellum very short and broad, scarcely entering the elytral disc, its posterior margin broadly arcuate. Elytra narrow, parallel, a little wider than the thorax, side margins not serrulate. Prosternum broadly convex, more strongly so between the coxae, squarely truncate in front, intercoxal process slightly dilated behind the coxae, then gradually pointed. Mesosternum deeply impressed or divided throughout its length, the impression or excavation occupied anteriorly by the tip of the prosternum, but open for a short distance posteriorly. Front coxae separated by about their own widths; middle coxae slightly more distant. Metasternal episterna moderately wide, about two and one-half times as long as wide. Hind coxal plates not much dilated internally, the posterior margin concave and only a little oblique.

Ventral segments 2-4 equal, first conspicuously and fifth slightly longer, sutures straight, the first fine but distinctly impressed.

Legs moderate, tarsi subequal in length to the tibiae, basal joint distinctly longer than the second, joints 1-4 lobed beneath; claws simple.

**A. cylindricollis** n. sp.

Cylindrical, convex, viridi-aeneous, elytra distinctly cuprascent, clothed thinly above and beneath with fine whitish pubescence, the hairs inclined on the elytra, a little longer and erect on the head and prothorax.

Head exactly equal in width to the prothorax, front convex, densely punctate and with two very small tuberculiform prominences at middle, between which is a slight impression. Antennae equal in length to the prothorax and attaining the middle of the latter; joints 1 and 3 moderately elongate, 2 and 4 shorter, 4 triangular, as long as wide, 5 to 11 transverse, their lower edges feebly then rapidly oblique to base.

Prothorax cylindrical, a little wider than long, sides straight and parallel from base to apex, disk a little more strongly convex anteromedially, and with a short ante-median impression; surface nearly evenly punctate, the punctures separated by their own diameters or rather more, the interstices polished; hind angles not in the least carinate. Elytra a little wider than the thorax, parallel to apical third, apex obtusely rounded or subtruncate, surface rather densely punctate and vaguely finely striate, the punctures of the intervals similar to and much confused with those of the striae. Beneath rather closely punctate and

finely pubescent, the punctures coarser at the middle of the prosternum, somewhat denser at the sides of the body, the posterior margins of ventral segments 2 to 5 smooth at middle; last segment subtruncate at apex. Length 6.75 mm.; width 2 mm.

Described from a unique example of unknown sex taken by Mr. J. O. Martin at Palm Springs, California. *Type* in my collection.

The generic affinities of this rather remarkable species are not readily determinable by means of the table of tribal divisions as given in the LeConte and Horn Classification. The form is as slender as in many Agrili and the front may fairly be said to be contracted by the antennal cavities, yet the general facies and most essential characters absolutely forbid this reference. After a somewhat careful comparative study I am pretty well convinced that its place is between the group Chalcophorae and Buprestes as now limited, and its nearest ally is perhaps the recently described *Nanularia** of Casey, with which it seems to agree closely in antennal formation, and substantially in several other respects. The mesosternum and metasternum do not appear to be anchylosed between the coxae, neither is there apparent so distinct a cleft as in *Nanularia*. The palpi are unlike those of any of the genera of the Chalcophorae or Buprestes and resemble more nearly the form in *Acmaeodera*. The punctuation is suggestive of *Hippomelas*, though not quite the same. The perfectly parallel-sided thorax with the merest vestige of a lateral margin at the extreme base is quite unique among our Buprestidae.

### Return of Animal Life to the Katmai District, Alaska.

In the course of studies of the revegetation of the district devastated by the eruption of Katmai, under the auspices of the National Geographic Society, some observations have been made on the return of animal life. The striking thing is that predaceous animals are returning before the return of herbivorous types. This is true of both mammals and insects. The area near the volcano was practically devoid of insect life three years after the eruption (1915), but was fairly swarming with insects the year following. Most of these were predaceous, parasitic or coprophilous. The origin of these insects, their breeding places, and the reason for their sudden appearance are mysteries. They were ravenously hungry and many were dying from starvation.—Robert F. Griggs, Ohio State University (in Program of the Ecological Society of America, Dec. 27-29, 1916).

*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. XI, p. 172, 1909.